

City of Norfolk
Building Construction Services Division Policy
Build-04-002

Foundation Investigation

Section R401.4 of the International Code allows the City of Norfolk to request a geotechnical evaluation if any of several conditions exist. It states in part:

R401.4 Soil tests. *In areas likely to have expansive, compressible, shifting or other unknown soil characteristics, the building official shall determine whether to require a soil test to determine the soil's characteristics at a particular location. This test shall be made by an approved agency using an approved method.*

Certain infill lots may contain soil conditions that include compressible soil, expansive soil, shifting soil or other unknown condition such as contamination that would be detrimental to the building or structure, that would cause damage or even foundation failure. For this reason, and based on field conditions as determined by an inspector, the City of Norfolk will require a geotechnical evaluation for all infill lots. This geotechnical evaluation will include the following:

- 1) Soil type classified according to the Unified Soil Classification system and Table R405.1 in the International Residential Code.
- 2) Soil bearing capacity
- 3) Drainage characteristics
- 4) Frost heave potential
- 5) Volume change potential
- 6) Any contamination of the soil that would affect health or safety

Corrective measures required to mitigate any adverse condition must be designed by a geotechnical engineer and submitted for our review at that time.